

Applicants would like to point out to the Examiner the following six pending patent applications that may be related to the present application:

- (1) U.S. patent application No. 09/873,330, filed June 5, 2001 (corresponding to U.S. patent application publication No. US-2001-0023737-A1);
- (2) U.S. patent application No. 09/970,221, filed October 2, 2001 (corresponding to U.S. patent application publication No. US-2002-0011297-A1);
- (3) U.S. patent application No. 09/840,095, filed April 24, 2001 (corresponding to U.S. patent application publication No. US-2002-0029841-A1);
- (4) U.S. patent application No. 09/983,671, filed October 25, 2001 (corresponding to U.S. patent application publication No. US-2002-0056498-A1);
- (5) U.S. patent application No. 10/223,353, filed August 20, 2002 (corresponding to U.S. patent application publication No. US-2002-0189737-A1); and
- (6) U.S. patent application No. 09/364,099, filed July 30, 1999 (not published).

Additionally, Applicants would like to point out to the Examiner the following three patents that may be related to the present application:

- (1) U.S. Patent No. 6,318,432, issued November 20, 2001;
- (2) U.S. Patent No. 6,328,084, issued December 11, 2001; and
- (3) U.S. Patent No. 6,457,504, issued October 1, 2002.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that each or all of the listed documents are material or constitute "prior art." If the Examiner applies any of the documents as prior art against any claim(s) in the application and Applicants determine that the cited document(s) do not constitute

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“prior art” under United States law, Applicants reserve the right to present to the Patent Office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such document(s).

Applicants further reserve the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should one or more of the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this SIDS, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: December 2, 2003

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION

Atty. Docket No.	7040.0089.00	Application Serial No.	09/885,092
Applicants	Renato CARETTA et al.		
Filing Date	June 21, 2001	Group:	1733



U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
Examiner Initial*		Document Number	Issue Date	Name	Class	Sub Class	Filing Date If Appropriate
		6,318,432	20NOV01	Caretta et al.			RECEIVED
		6,328,084	11DEC01	Caretta et al.			DEC 02 2003
		6,457,504	01OCT02	Caretta			TC 1700
		US 2001/0023737 A1		Caretta et al.			Published 27SEP01
		US-2002-0011297-A1		Caretta et al.			Published 31JAN02
		US 2002/0029841 A1		Caretta et al.			Published 14MAR02
		US 2002/0056498 A1		Caretta et al.			Published 16MAY02
		US 2002/0189737 A1		Caretta			Published 19DEC02
		09/364,099		Caretta			30JUL99

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
		Document Number	Publication Date	Country	Class	Sub Class	Translation Yes or No

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)	

Examiner	Date Considered
<p>*Examiner: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.</p>	
<p>Form PTO 1449 Patent and Trademark Office - U.S. Department of Commerce</p>	